# NOTES FROM DENMARK

## DEAR COMRADES

We have decided to issue this bulletin because we think it may be more valuable/usable to you, than our papers "Dialog", "Sorte Kors Bulletin" and "Anarken" which only can be understood by Scandinavians.

Notes from Denmark do not replace those papers though. We will continue to send them to our international contacts.

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Let us start with introducing ourselves:

Anarchist Federation In Denmark (AFID) is a nationwide network. The purpose of the federation is to co-ordinate activities and communicate informations, ideas, inspiration etc. between the anarchist and libertarian socialist groups and individuals associated.

We have no such things as Aims and Principles. Our purpose, described above, was confirmed at our national meeting in spring 1983 and reconfirmed at the national meeting in Mai this year.

## National Anarchist Meeting

AFID consists pf 82 individuals (exactly) but unfortunately only 3 groups are associated.

This is by no means **all** the anarchist and libertarian socialist groups and individuals in Denmark. Therefore we have decided to call in for a National Anarchist Meeting the 5.-7. of oktober this year.

It is our hope that this meeting will result in a more effective and broad anarchist network. Maybe it also will form the basis of a real anarchist organisation with Aims and Principles. So far it seems this basis has been missing due to lack of interest and some anarchists' intolerance toward other anarchists with different views.

As said the anarchist meeting will be national, but foreigners can participate as observes.

Contact-adress: Lasse Hagstrøm
Jyllingevej 83
2720 Vanløse
Denmark

## City-Indians

Friday the 22. June about 50 "City-indians" forced their way into the Ministry of Cultural Affairs in Copenhagen, a smoke-bomb was dropped as a protest against the present cultural politics.

The city-indians (squatters for the most part) declared the MInistry for a "free area"(free for/from what?!) and demanded the ruling norms destroyed and the right to for instance go naked in the streets (at least in the summertime).

## ASO meeting

The AnarchoSyndicalist Organisation in Denmark held its national meeting the 15.-17. of June.

Message of solidarity was recieved from the National Committee of FAU.

With only 40 paying members (and 15 - 20 members not paying due to unemployment etc) ASO is by now a small organisation and only able to function as a propaganda organisation, still the aim is - of course - to reach the point of being able to operate as a union.

An item on the agenda was exchanging and comparing of trade union experiences. This item lead to the result that ASO now starts organizing its members in anarchosyndicalist opposition-groups inside the unions.

Already one group (of educationists) has been formed; hopefully others will follow.

The 1. of May-demonstration in Copenhagen arranged by ASO yield a profit at about 500 £ which enable the organisation to buy new printing-maschines and make propaganda-material.

# Anarchist students organizing!

Till the sixties the danish gymnasium (comparable with grammer/ high school) was a place for the children of the upper classes. The function of the gymnasium was to classify the pupils so that also they could fulfil their highly paid task in our capitalist society.

Things have changed a bit since; because of the rising demand for well-educated labour in the late sixties, more pupils was admited to the gymnasiums, with the result that the clientele changed but the education did not.

Now about 40% of a youth year go to the gymnasium. Though the gymnasium therefore cannot be said to be reserved for the children of the upper classes, the form and contents of the education are directed at those children, who are eloquent and wellgrounded; mostly the children with parents who are well-to-do.

Nowadays the capitalists don't need so mucg educated labour; the gymnasium has therefore turned into a great "sorting-maschine", where "bad" pupils (most likely from the working class) are sorted out.

In these times of unemployment situation becomes pretty bad; pupils fighting for the good marks - often at the expence of the solidarity in the class. Children from the working class with no class-consciousness also participate in this struggle for good marks not knowing that fighting on the premises of the enemy you nearly always will lose.

Some of the smartest pupils becomes ultra-liberalists,which seemingly gives them the right to trample down their class-mates.

Fortunately not all lose their common sense, some even tries to fight back.

In spring 1984 we realized that anarchist students at different gymnasiums had gathered in groups by themselves and with no contact with other groups at first.

The 10. of May there was called in for the first official meeting in the Anarchist Bookshop in Copenhagen. More than 40 students showed up. This was a bit surprising but also positive.At the meeting the structure of the organisation was discussed in small groups.

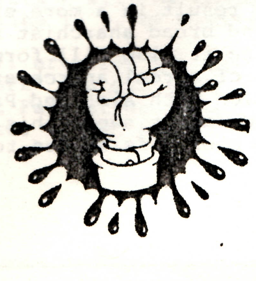
At the plenum we agreed to form a network of groups and individuals. We also agreed - considering the short period of schooling (3 years) - that we do not need any kind of Aims and Principles. The groups and individuals associated form the organisation and decide the contents.

In a way you can say that the organisation is both an ideological and organizing alternative to the party-political youth organisations.

The 6. of June a second meeting was hold - in the middle of examination-periode. Despite this 35 students participated. At this meeting we planned and discussed actions. propaganda-material etc.

Within less than 2 months the organisation has grown from groups at 4 gymnasiums to groups and individuals at 14 gymnasiums. We hope that during the next 2 or 3 months we will have spread through all the gymnasiums in Denmark (144).

Externe contactpersons:
Peter Bach
Tordenskjoldsgade 38
4200 Slagelse
DK - Denmark
Anne
Rudtoften 9
2750 Ballerup, Denmark
Jakob
Engsvinget
2400 København NV, Denmark
Sabrina
Rudtoften 25
2750 Ballerup, Denmark



# Mass arrests

At the 4. of May a non-violent demnostration was exposed to the Danish police incridible lack of respect towards people thinking differently. We immidiately reported on the event to Black Flag, knowing that in this way a great deal of the revolutionary anarchist would learn about the outrageous act.

The article as written to BF: On the Liberationday of Denmark the 4. of May the ten day political carneval "kulørte Klat" (Coloured Stain) started arranged by the Danish squatters.

In front of the town hall of Copenhagen 1500 people had gathered, from here they marched in procession. Two and a half hours and 8 kilometres later the demonstration ended at the museum of The Resistance Movement 1940 - 45, where a speech was made, a slightly revised version of the national anthem was sung and a wreath was placed as a memorial to the killed members of the resistance movement during the 2. World War.

"YOU DID, WHAT YOU COULD" was the inscription of the wreath as a token of respect for the resistance movement, but at the same time expressing the deep disappointment with the way society develop after the Liberation.

After this demonstration of sympathy the cops without any warning encircled the participants of the legal, reported demonstration.

The result: The greatest mass arrest in the history of Denmark since the 2. World War. A total of 362 were arrested, several were assaulted and two were send to hospital because of blows on the hed.

With this the Danish police have clearly broken the Danish constitution, which obviously they don't consider as valid for squatters. There wasn't any fight or other disturbance of law and order at the museum, which could explain the behaviour of the cops.

The mass arrest can only be ascribed to the cops' intense hatred of the squatters. They had to beat down even a positive, nonviolent demonstration.

The participants of "Kulørte Klat" have reported the cops to... the police. The matter will - of course - have a legal consequence in form of a claim for 2000 kr. (133£) per person arrested.

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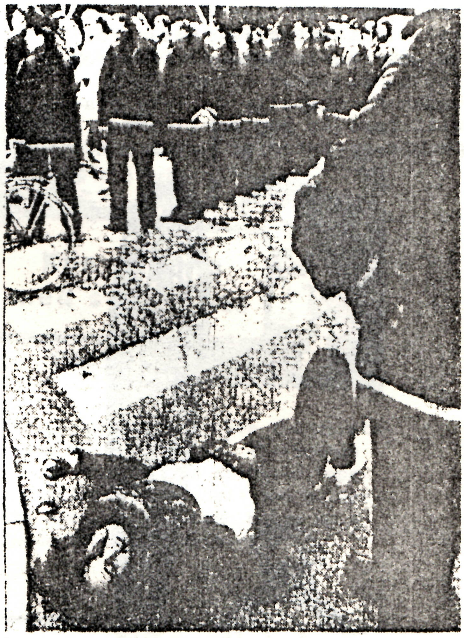
The mass arrest was the latest of a series of violation of individuals' legal rights.

We think (or hope) that the police this time have failed.



Our hope was intensified when we heard about the result of another mass arrest. The mass arrest took place in Copenhagen the 10. of Oktober last year. All in all 148 young participants in a birthday-party was arrested after there had been disturbances of law and order in another part of the area (at a place where the squatters' café "Allotria" had stood before the authorities had demolished it).

The police thought that they had seen some of the law-breakers run into "Stengade 30", the adress where the birthdayparty was held.

Therefore all the guests were arrested, photographed and registered. Only a very few were charged in the end. The commissioner of police has recommendated that 150.000 kr. (10,700£) is paid as compensation for the arrests. The case is as far as we know now discussed at the office of the Public Prosecutor.

From a legal point of view the "Birthdayparty"case and the "Kulørte Klat"case are identical. If the Public Prosecutor follow the recommendation from the commisioner of police - which he normally do - he also will have to pay damages to the people arrested af "Kuløtte Klat".

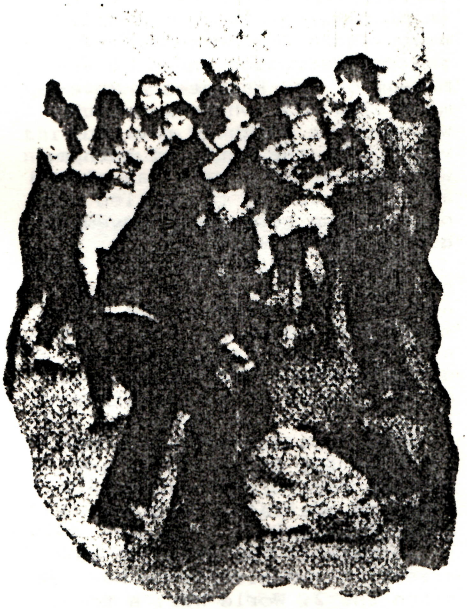
This might very well happen. The Public Prosecutor himself decided to withdraw the charges on all "Kulørte Klat"participants - only two weeks after the mass arrest.

About 208 of the arrested have claimed damages from the state; a total account on about half a million kr. (35,700£).

The conservative minister of Justice (!) is very displeased with these large amounts, caused by the adventures of the police.

We have begun imagine what will happen, when the money box sooner or later is empty!

CLAES MOVIN



Now, what does this look like?! A cop beating up a person, who lies on the street ? Maybe, but the superintendent of the police is not deceivable. Questioned what it looked like, he answered: "We know very well how that kind of photoes are taken, and it can represent a lot of things..." Nevertheless it will be examined wether the policeman corcerned has violated the baton-regulations.

# Women Peacecamp

The nothern commandocentral of NATO, which at this very moment is under construction at Ravnstrup nearby the city Viborg.

The 23. of June a group of women from all of Denmark camped at the military instalations.

The military project is surrounded by deep secrecy. It isn't visible to the public, byt is constructed 7-12 floors under the ground. Military people have told the women that nuclear weapons in the nothern WestGermany have to be directed from the new construction/bunker. IN addition we have got to know that the Finance Committee has approved to the establisment of this headquater by the budget of the infrastructure of NATO. But as this is a question of "military secrets" the Minister of "Defence" will not answer any question concerning the bunker.

The women haven't recieved any permission the camp. Unofficial because they want to get the construction closed down and in general more publicity about the military and its secretiveness.

It is therefore by now means a peacefully picnic... there has been many scout-camps in the area, so the refusal of the Viborg county counsil refering to "danger of fire at camping" is groundless and a limitation of freedom of speech.

At several times the women have defied the military signs saying "Military Territory - No Admittance". This calls haven't so far resulted in confrontations.

Militært område
Adgang forbudt
Kun adgang
med særligtpas

At the picture you can see the military signs metioned above. The bottom sign says that only a socalled "special passport" will admit the holder to the area... The woman holds up a selfmade "special passport".

LATEST NEWS FROM THE WOMEN PEACECAMP AT RAVNSTRUP:

Because of the camping-permission not recieved the woman have decided to move their camp away from the military drive to a field straight up to the military instalations. The farmer, who owns the field, has given the women permission to camp there.

## Triumph over the police!

If the Danish police wish to take the fingerprints of a person arrested and the person concerned refuses to co-operate, the police can no longer use power to get the fingerprints. They will have to get a judge's order. 50 years of police practice broken! This is the result of an order of the East High Court in Copenhagen May 11 1984.

The High Court states that taking fingerprints against the will of the person arrested was "such an interference in the personal integrity" that the issue should be brought before a city court.

Still the police can take fingerprints but not so unrestrained as they used to do. First in the archives of the police you are registered not only in Denmark but in all of Europe. Therefore we consider the order as a triumph.

## Omori-demonstration

1. of JUne there was a demonstration in front of the Japanese embassy in Denmark. The demonstration was arranged by the AnarchoSyndicalist Organisation (ASO) to portest against the deadsentence at comrade K.Omori. (The Omori-case should be familiar to you).

For security reasons (?!) the embassy had stationed two tough-looking guards in the embassy-door. This was highly unnecessary; the participants - average 10 persons - just wanted to present the embassador with a protestletter saying that if this peacefully application, together with similar applications worldwide, couldn't make the Japanese government give Omori another trial - or better an acquittal - we would have to revise our ways of communicating with the Japanese government.

Since this ill-concealed threath hasn't effect we are now planning our next move.

## Danish prisoners Organizing!

The following communiqué dated 23. May was released from "Fangernes Interesse Gruppe" (The Prisoners' Interest Group) at the State prison in Horsens(a city). "The prisoners are organizing, groups for prisoners are about to be formed in the Horsens State prison. The prisoners are organizing according to principles very much Trade Union-like.

What hurried up the organizing of the prisoners was our dissatisfaction with the present spokesman-arrangement. To fil up the political void, which would be left by closing the spokesman-arrangement, and to lay a stronger stress on the interests of the prisoners, the organizing of the prisoners has been hurried up.

This is what is happening with the F.I.G. - an idea which can be spread to other prisons, so that the day isn't far ahead when all prisoners are organized.

We want to form a powerfull fighting organisation. We want to make the prisoners a knit-togethered unity. We want to carry on a political, economical and ideological fight. We want to make the prisoners consious of their role, of cause and effect in our society. We want to influence those, who can influence on the criminal politics.

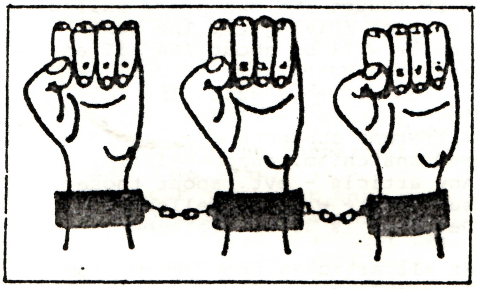
We want a real influence and participation in decision made concerning our situation.

The main-aims of F.I.G. are:
- to change the conditions inside the prisons, to be a "mouthpiece" to the prisoners and to take care of their interests.
- to work for social equality and justice in the field of criminal law.
- in concrete situation to actively and in accordance with the policy of FIG support prisoners, who are in conflict with the authorities.
- to supervise and influence on the criminal political conditions.
- to demand a real influence and participation.

The prisoners do not wish to be looked down on as inferior, but to be treated as humans beings, who have broken the laws indeed, but still - sooner or later - have to try to build up a free life.

We demand that FIG is recognized as negotiator for the prisoners in the State prison in Horsens.

**On behalf of the former spokesmen**
**Henning Z. Olsen.**



The prisoner-activities in the Horsens State prison started when the prisoners realised that the spokeman-arrangement which was set up in the seventies is nothing less than a comforter which give the prisoners no influence.

In the article no. 1. in the regulations for the spokesmen it says that "the prisoners access to speak and influence on the conditions in the institution comprises general questions".

This wasn't taken very literally by the mangement; in September they decided to cut down the wages of the prisoners working in the prison with 40-50% without asking or telling the spokemen. Wages were and are not very high (30 pence an hour); to make a comparision the minimum wage in Danish society is about 3£ an hour).

Therefore, when the application from the spokesmen seemed to be in vain, the prisoners decided to strike, and the cutdown-proposal was withdrawn.

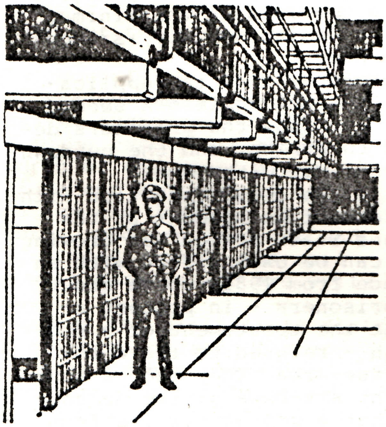
Still the dissatisfaction with the form of management at the Horsens State prison was growing.

It can be exemplified with an episode from 1981, where about 120 prisoners - in protest against the treatement of a spokesman - refused to leave the exercise-area. They made a non-violent sit-down strike demanding that a representative from the management should come and explain what was going to happen with the spokesman (who was put in strait-jacket!). There came no representative. Instead the prisoners were attacked by police with dogs. Since the prisoners haven't had exercises all together, but in shifts which delays and shortens the exercises. The management still continue to punish the prisoners for something happened 3 years ago. Such things makes the prisoners lose their patience.

The vice-inspector has in a report stated that the spokesman-arrangement only was meant to be a "mean of communication between prisoners and management". Directly leveled at the spokesmen he is said to be explaining that "...the only thing you can decide is the colour of the toilet paper". But as the spokesmen also doubt that they decided to resign the 24. April, and as a result FIG was created.

The organizing continues in spite of (or maybe because of) the management's and the prison guards' attempt to split the prisoners. Their trump card is that they can grant a "leave" to prisoners who has behaved "proper". The more consious prisoners have to tell their fellow-prisoners that these "liberties" are pseudo-goods; when prisoners fight seperately for their own rights, they will gain nothing.

Together they are strong even though they are in prison. This is the lesson to be learned from the strike against the reduction of wages.



The FIG has had a ballot at all blocks of the Horsens State prison, and can therefore now document that they at present represent 80% of the prisoners. These prisoners also pay subscribtion (on hour's wage pr. week).

Considering that the management has refused FIG the admittance to the sick bay and the isolation-block the result achieved is very good.

We think it is due to the feeling of solidarity and unity which is prevalent among the prisoners in Horsens State prison; already 60% are organized in the Criminal political Association KRIM which from the outside tries to cause improvements for the prisoners.

Unfortunately the prisoners in the other prisons haven't realized the necessity of organizing. They still have something to learn. But as it is said in the Manifesto of FIG: **"Prisoners have only their chains to lose."**

We do not guarantee that this bulletin hasn't got any misprints, grammatical mistakes or incomprehensible sentences!

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The adress of the secretariat of the Anarchist Federation in Denmark is:

**AFID-secretariat**
**c/o Peter Bach**
**Tordenskjoldsgade 38**
**4200 Slagelse**
**Denmark**

Whereto all federations,groups and individuals interested can write for more information, adresses and/or regulary contact with the AFID.

The Anarchist Federation In Denmark issues its own paper called "Dialog" (Dialogue). The next number will be about IWA/AIT and anarchosyndicalism. It will be issued ultimo august. The following number will deal with different subjects e.g. ecology and anarchism, anarcha-feminism. Any article - evt. about those subjects - will be wellcome. Deadline is 3. of September.

At all articles from "Notes from Denmark" you can refer to Anarchist Federation In Denmark as source. If you please.